

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 14 and canceled claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 18. Claims 14, 15, 17, and 19 are pending in the application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

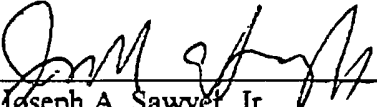
Applicant appreciates and respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's telephone conference on January 6, 2004 in which the Examiner indicated suggestions for claim amendments that would appear to make the claims allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 18 and amended claim 14 to include the features of canceled claim 18, as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 15, 2004
Date



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